

(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

~~SECRET SPOKE~~

CATEGORY = 1

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MESSAGE = 02145335

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TO NSA/UNIFORM WHISKEY NCR NMCC WHITE HOUSE

ZEM

~~SECRET SPOKE~~ SECTION FOUR OF FIVE

XXMM

ENP04-0072357 2/00 [] VCK/R597-72 SPOT REPORT AVN [] AVIA, OPER/I NVN []

REFLECTIONS OF AND REACTIONS TO U.S., AIR OPERATIONS 21 DECEMBER 1972

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II. SAM REACTION BETWEEN 1940Z AND 2110Z, 21 DECEMBER 1972, AT LEAST THREE NORTH VIETNAMESE SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE REGIMENTS IN HANOI AREA REFLECTED AND REACTED TO U.S. AIRSTRIKES AGAINST HANOI AREA TARGETS. AT LEAST 12 SA-2 MISSILES WERE LAUNCHED AT THE STRIKE AIRCRAFT BY UNITS SUBORDINATE TO THE 264TH SAM REGIMENT, LOCATED JUST SOUTHWEST OF HANOI, AND OTHER UNIDENTIFIED SAM REGIMENTAL CONTROLLER. PRELIMINARY COMINT INDICATES THAT AT LEAST ONE AIRCRAFT WAS DOWNED AS A RESULT OF THE FIRINGS. ((1)) AT 1940Z AN UNIDENTIFIED HANOI AREA SAM BATTALION WAS NOTED GOING INTO READINESS CONDITION TWO. AT 2001Z, AN UNIDENTIFIED BATTALION OF THE 261ST SAM REGIMENT, LOCATED IN THE HANOI AREA, ENTERED READINESS CONDITION ONE. AT 2004Z, THE 264TH AND 234TH SAM REGIMENTS, LOCATED TO THE SOUTHWEST AND NORTH OF HANOI RESPECTIVELY, ALSO ENTERED READINESS CONDITION ONE. AT 2008Z, AN UNIDENTIFIED SAM BATTALION IN THE HANOI AREA WAS NOTED TRACKING AN UNIDENTIFIED TARGET AT A RANGE OF 70 KILOMETERS. THE FIRST REFLECTED LAUNCH OF ONE OR POSSIBLY TWO MISSILES, WAS CONDUCTED AT 2026Z BY AN UNIDENTIFIED HANOI AREA SAM BATTALION. RESULTS OF THE LAUNCH WERE NOT REPORTED. AT 2031Z, ANOTHER LAUNCH OF AT LEAST ONE MISSILE WAS CONDUCTED BY A HANOI AREA BATTALION AGAINST A B-52. AGAIN, NO RESULTS WERE REPORTED. AT 2039Z, ELEMENTS OF THE 264TH REGIMENT WERE ENGAGED IN TRACKING HOSTILE AIRCRAFT AND WERE PREPARING TO LAUNCH. AT 2042Z, THREE MISSILES WERE LAUNCHED AT A TARGET 22 KILOMETERS AWAY FROM THE FIRING BATTALION. AT 2046Z, TWO MORE MISSILES WERE LAUNCHED BY AN UNIDENTIFIED BATTALION OF THE 264TH REGIMENT AND AGAIN AT 2049Z, TWO ADDITIONAL MISSILES. A FINAL TWO MISSILES WERE REPORTED LAUNCHED BY THE 264TH AT 2052Z. AT APPROXIMATELY 2103Z, AN OPERATOR AT ONE OF THE BATTALIONS OF THE 264TH REPORTED THAT THEY HAD DONE WELL, AND THAT THE TARGET'S ALTITUDE WAS DECREASING AND IT WAS PROBABLY GOING DOWN. AT 2108Z, THE 238TH SAM REGIMENT IN THE HWI PHONG AREA, REPORTEDLY RETURNED TO READINESS CONDITION ONE. AT 2110Z, AN OPERATOR AT AN UNIDENTIFIED SAM BATTALION REPORTED SHOOTING DOWN AN AIRCRAFT AND PROBABLY CAPTURING THE PILOT. NO FURTHER DETAILS AS TO THE IDENTITY OF THE PILOT OR THE TYPE OF AIRCRAFT ARE AVAILABLE. AT 2145Z, AT LEAST ONE BATTALION OF THE 261ST REGIMENT REPORTED RETURNING TO READINESS CONDITION TWO. NORTH VIETNAMESE AIR SURVEILLANCE FACILITIES POSSIBLY REFLECTED THE FLIGHT OF THE DOWNED AIRCRAFT. FOR SPECIFIC DETAILS, SEE TRACK 525, REPORTED IN SECTION I ABOVE. COLLATERAL SOURCES REPORTED THE LOSS OF TWO B-52S TO SAMs DURING THE LATE 2000Z HOUR. CREW STATUS AND LOCATIONS OF THE LOSSES ARE NOT KNOWN. XXHH 720 0659 NNNH

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Approved for release by NSA on 07-18-2014, Transparency Case# 65886

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